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# McElroy, Clarence Underwood, 1848-1928 (MSS 157)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 157 McELROY, Clarence Underwood, 1849-1928**

½ box. 3 folders. 3 items. 1908-1909. Originals.

1961.6.3

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Clarence Underwood McElroy was born on 27 November 1849, the son of Abram Briggs and Eliza (Underwood) Skiles in Clarksville, Tennessee. His parents, who resided in Marion County, Kentucky, were temporarily in Tennessee. In 1850, McElroy's parents moved to the William H. Skiles farm near Woodburn, Kentucky, in Warren County. McElroy was reared in the home of his uncle, Henry H. Skiles. He attended Warren County rural schools prior to matriculating at Forest Home Academy in Anchorage, Kentucky. He then entered Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, from which he graduated in 1867 with honors.

After graduation, McElroy read law at the Clarksville, Tennessee office of Jacob G. Hornberger and House. He began practicing law in Bowling Green in 1870; three years later he entered a partnership with Daniel Webster Wright that lasted for forty-seven years.

McElroy was elected to the Kentucky General Assembly in 1879 and was re-elected for four consecutive terms, serving until 1885. In the House, he served on the Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees. He was the author of the first bill to regulate the operations and rates of state railroads, thereby preventing unjust discrimination. This work eventually led to the establishment of the State Railroad Commission. In 1885, he decided not to run for re-election and returned to practicing law in Bowling Green. In 1896, friends persuaded him to run as the Democratic nominee for Congress, but he was defeated.

McElroy was an astute jurist. He wrote articles for several law journals, served as president of the Kentucky Bar Association (1902-1903), and worked on the Board of State Bar Examiners (1918-1922). McElroy was a firm believer in and supporter of education. He served as a member of the Kentucky State University Board of Trustees (1886), and as trustee for the University of Kentucky (1893-1895). In addition, he wrote the articles of incorporation for Western Kentucky University's College Heights Foundation, to which he contributed liberally and served on its Board of Trustees.

Being a charter member of the XV Club of Bowling Green in 1879, McElroy served as its president for a number of years. He was also a member of the Masonic

Lodge and a committed member of the Presbyterian Church. His numerous civic contributions reflect a citizen committed to community improvement.

McElroy married Litie Trigg of Glasgow in 1884; they had no children. For most of their married life, the couple lived at 1302 State Street in Bowling Green. He died on 9 June 1928 and was interred in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

### **THE COLLECTION**

This collection consists of two travel journals kept by Bowling Green, Kentucky attorney Clarence Underwood McElroy during a trip to the Orient. Starting at San Francisco, McElroy traveled to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), Japan, Hong Kong, China, Philippines, Ceylon, etc. He describes in detail each place he visits. Collection also includes a passenger list from the *S.S. Mongolia*.

### **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>McElroy, Clarence Underwood - Journals of Oriental tour</b>	<b>1908-1909</b>	<b>5 items</b>
Folder 1	Descriptive Inventory and data		2 items
Folder 2	McElroy - Journal (151p.) of Oriental trip and passenger list of <i>S. S. Mongolia</i>	June 30, 1908- Nov. 9, 1908	2 items
Folder 3	McElroy - Journal (60p.) of Oriental trip	Nov. 12, 1908- Feb. 4, 1909	1 item

### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS McElroy, Clarence Underwood, 1908-1909  
157 1849-1928

Travel journals (2) kept by Bowling Green, Kentucky attorney Clarence Underwood McElroy during his trip to the Orient, starting at San Francisco. He describes the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), Japan, Hong Kong, China, Philippines, Ceylon, etc. Includes passenger list of the *S. S. Mongolia*.

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## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

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### ***SEE and SEE ALSO CARDS***

Ceylon

See:

Sri Lanka

Mount Fuji-San

See:

Fuji-San (Mt.), Japan

Sandwich Islands

See:

Hawaii

Jeffrey 10/04/2013